The attack on Microsoft because they built a better mousetrap is unwarranted
and outrageous.

I have been a computer user and analyst since my entry into the workforce
some thirty years ago. In 1966, I was first introduced to programming
(FORTRAN) as an engineering student. I can tell you I had no interest
following this experience in being a computer geek! I left school and served
in the USAF, with Viet Nam service. I returned to school on the GI Bill and
obtained my BA and MBA. In this process, I was exposed to GPSS, Wang
calculators and other cutting edge (at that time) computer models. They
still left me with wanting someone else to do my modeling.

Graduating with my MBA, I then became a systems and financial analyst for a
Bank holding company designing major banking systems (we were the first to
install ACH in Florida and mini-computers in the bank branches) and using
timeshare models. As computers moved away from the "big box" towards the
ultimate "personal computers" I became more of a hands on user.

I became a CPA working for a major firm and then as the #3 financial spot
with a fortune 500 which became a LBO and then liquidated. After the
liquidation, I went into the work force as a consultant/CPA with my only
staff being a PC under DOS. Without my computer background, it would have
been extremely difficult for me to grasp what was going on in the PC - DOS
environment- with seperate, unintegrated Lotus, WordPerfect, database and
other applications. It was only several years later that I finally migrated
to Windows which I initially resisted because I did not want to retrain
myself.

When I found what Windows and the integrated applications could do - I never
looked back. AND THE TOTALLY INTEGRATED PACKAGES I PURCHASED WERE FAR
CHEAPER, MORE EFFICIENT AND BETTER than the more expensive packages that I
had perviously been working with. Because of the systems created by Bill
Gates - I have less office staff, am more efficient at what I do, am willing
to do my own modeling and correspondence, email, internet access, etc. etc.
etc.

I am at a loss as to what you think Bill Gates and Microsoft have done to
harm me - the consumer!   As I understand it, the major issue against
microsoft revolves around their internet access system (MSN) which I do not
use. I am an AOL user. And while I have found some conflicts which are an
irritant - I do not consider them actionable. I still use AOL (my kids would
not let me move) and have figured out how to defeat whatever conflict
(perceived or real) existed. Note: AOL Instant messenger is another example
of an innovative creation which for the life of me I do not understand why

someone who creates and builds a better mousetrap (and is the only one who has and everyone wants it) needs to be punished for doing so!

If you want someone to attack - why don't you look at some of the tax software firms - Why do I have to pay so much for software from them? Their fees are excessive in my opinion.

SETTLE THIS ACTION AGAINST MICROSOFT AND MOVE ON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!